Times-Virginian Church News

Bible & Daily Living

First vs. new creation

By William L. Trimyer
First Creation vs. New Creation
Lesson for May 30, 1982
Bible Study Passage: Revelations 21:1-7, 22-27
Introduction

The Bible begins and ends in a garden. The picture in Genesis is of a serene garden undisturbed and at peace. Humanity's trail of disobedience, however, continues down to the present day. The garden made perfect by the handiwork of God no longer resembles the first creation.

We as humans have not lived up to God's original design for us. We have marred and have been marred by our own choice. Like the original garden, we do not resemble God's original intentions. Our world is full of violence, pain and unlove.

Our only hope for resolution is seen in John's vision of "a new heaven and a new earth." We can only dream what this new heaven and earth will be like, but whatever it's like, God has promised that it will be good.

Good is God's first name! Good God. The works and plans of God are always focused upon our good. "All things work together for good for them who love God, and are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

Renewal From Above [Revelations 21:1-2]

I'm sure all of us are enjoying the warmth of spring after a grueling winter. It would be terribly depressing if we did not have spring to look forward to each year.

The Revelation is a forward look for all Christians. John's vision basically says that the prospects for our future look good. To use medical jargon, our diagnosis is poor but our prognosis looks good....real good.

The new heaven and new earth will be strangely different from the heaven and earth we now know. For one thing there will be no more sea. Can you imagine a new earth with no rolling surf? I can't. I grew up near the oceanside and spent many an hour watching the waves roll in and gently kiss the glistening sandy beach. In ancient times the sea was thought to be evil.

The new sign from above is the holy city or new Jerusalem. This city becomes the "bride" of Christ. It is interesting that this city comes from above and not from upon the earth. There are no cities in our world that could qualify to be the holy city of God.

Renewal of Relationships [Revelation 21:3-7]

God does not reside as a remote star in some far away galaxy. God dwells with his people. Throughout history he has sought to be a compassionate God to his people.

When the Israelites journeyed through the wilderness, they carried with them symbols of God's presence. The whole notion of incarnation speaks of God dwelling with his people. "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us...." (John 1:14a)

As mentioned in our earlier lesson, the new city will be a place where God's people dwell in safety and peace. The causes for tears and death and pain will no longer exist, for such things will pass away. Those who have suffered for their faith and in their faith will reap the bounty of Christ's promise.

Christ says "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end." No one will be disappointed in what Christ has to offer those who have remained loyal to him.

A Renewed Community [Revelation 21:2-7]

No temple in heaven?! How can that not be? Strange as it may seem, the only temple in the new city will be the Lord God and the Lamb. There will be no need of a temple because God himself will brighten this city with his eternal presence.

We come back again to the image of the book. This city will "house" all of those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Dr. Trimyer is Chaplain at Burnham Hospital in Champaign, Illinois (WL-YP).

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At St. Anne's

Estes to visit

The Venerable George C. Estes, archdeacon of the Diocese of Southern Virginia, will visit St. Anne's Episcopal Church this weekend.

At 9 a.m. Sunday, the Feast of Pentecost, Fr. Estes will celebrated the Holy Eucharist and preach at St. Anne's Church. At 11:30 a.m., he will celebrate and preach at Emmanuel Episcopal Church at Gleanmore in Buckingham County.

He was born in Waco, Texas, and educated at the University of the South.

Prior to being named Archdeacon, Fr. Estes served congregations in Texas; Orange, Va.; Falls Church, Va.; Columbia, S.C.; and in Newport News, Va. He has served on and has chaired various committees and departments in this diocese.

George C. Estes

Fr. and Mrs. Estes will be the guests of the Rev. and Mrs. J. Harmon Smith. The Estes will be entertained at a "pot luck" picnic the evening of May 29 at St. Anne's.

SSR meeting set

New Hope Baptist Church will have a Sunday School Revival meeting on Sunday morning, May 30. Mr. Lawson Pankey of the Sunday School Board in Richmond will be the featured speaker during the Sunday School hour from 10:00 until 11:00. At this time all the classes will meet together in the church sanctuary.

"This has been designated as high attendance Sunday for the quarter at New Hope Baptist Church, and the goal has been set for 275 in Sunday School," said Carroll Goodrich, Sunday school superintendent.

Following this time of inspiration, the regular worship service with the Reverend Bob Williams, pastor, as speaker, will continue from 11 a.m. until 12 noon.

The morning worship service may be heard at 11:00 a.m. each Sunday on WTTX AM 1280.

"You are invited to come and be a part of this time together as we worship the Lord," said the Rev. Williams.

Sunday School union meeting set at Galilee

The semi-annual session of the East and Westbound Sunday School Union will meet with the Mt. Pleasant Sunday School of Hixburg, Va. The general public is invited. The youth departments of all member churches will sponsor talent renditions. The newly elected pastor of the church will deliver the special messge and the choir will render songs.

The YSD Singers took an active part in the memorial service in honor of Miss Lynn Gordon. The Wesley Brothers of Pamplin were in concert. The program was held at Zion Baptist.

The Senior Choir and the Jets Unlimited participated in a song feast at First Baptist Church this past Sunday. Many area churches were present.

Our church and community were saddened to hear of the death of Mrs. Mary Marshall. Sister Marshall was one of the oldest members. Our prayers are extended to Mrs. Armeta Jordan in the death of her daughter in New York.

Mt. Shiloh news

"Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is." Jeremiah 17:7

Last Sunday Rev. Yuille occupied the pulpit and delivered uplifting words of meditation and a soul stirring sermon. The service was enhanced with a cordial welcome and melodious songs by the choir.

Rev. Yuille will be the guest speaker at the Holcomb Roek Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Va., Sunday at 11 a.m., where Rev. N. S. Walker is the pastor.

An Eastern Star program will be conducted Sunday at 6 p.m. Rev. Raymond Lawing, Jr. will be the speaker of the hour and music will be provided by Mt. Shiloh Senior Choir.

Thought for the day, shared by Rev. Yuille:

A church is a body of persons, voluntarily associated together, professing to believe what Christ teaches, to do what Christ enjoins, to imitate his example, cherish his spirit, and make known his gospel to others.

Special day set at Springfield

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20.

"Family, Friends and Rally Day" will be held at Springfield Baptist Church, Appomattox, Va. Sunday, May 30, 1982 at 11:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Revival set

Revival services will begin at the Maple Grove Pentecostal Holiness Church, Wingina, on Wednesday evening, May 26 and continue through Sunday, May 30.

Guest minister will be the Reverend Garry Bryant. Pastor of the church is the Reverend O. E. Bryant.

The public is cordially invited to attend.

Benefit set

Maple Grove Pentecostal Holiness Church, Wingina, is planning a Car Wash for Saturday, May 30, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Central Fidelity Bank, Moses Street.

The event is being sponsored by the Women's Auxiliary of the church.

Foster A. Lewis and Cora Pankey, formerly of Appomattox and members of Springfield are sponsoring this program. Each of you is invited to attend. A special program has been arranged for your spiritual entertainment. Dr. Rev. Franklin Blackman is a dynamic speaker, pastor of the New Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Baltimore, Maryland. He will be the guest speaker.

If you miss this Sunday, you will miss a spiritual soul stirring treat, so mark your calendar, and we look forward to seeing you there, greeting Dr. Rev. Blackman, his fantastic choir singers and members.

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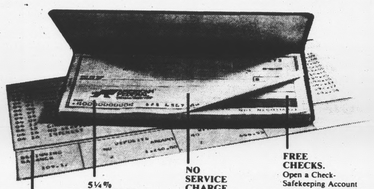

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